WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Mismanagement and Financial Irregularition to the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Madras

*405. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received from the Madras Labour Union alleging mismanagement and financial irregularities by the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Madras; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to safeguard the amounts advanced to the Mills by the public financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) As per the records, no such complaints from the Madras Labour Union have been received by the Government, since the re-opening of the Mills in November-December, 1984.

(b) Out of the Nine Directors on the Board of Directors of M/s. Binny Ltd., six (including the whole time Director Finance are nominees of Banks, Financial Institutions, to safeguard their interests.

Employees State Insurance Scheme

*406. DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) when was the Employees' State Insurance Scheme last reviewed;

(b) what were the recommendations of the review Committee; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) The working of the Employees' State Insurance Scheme was last reviewed during 1981-82.

(b) and (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Statement

(b) A summary of conclusions and recommendation of the Committee will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) The report of the Committee was placed before the E.S.I. Corporation at its meeting held on 18.2.1983 for consideration. The Corporation generally endorced the various recommendations of the Committee. The Committee had, in all made 130 conclusion/recommendations. These recommendations can be broadly classified into following three categories:

(1) Observations|conclusion on which Specific action is called for....14

(2) Recommendations of general nature which have been commended to the ESI Corporation, for implementation.....61

(3) Recommendations alreaty implemented by amendment of the ESI Act .....3.

(4) Recommendations involving amendment of the ESI Act|Policy decision, which required detailed examination... 52

The recommendations at (iv) above were considered at inter-departmental meeting held on 1.5.1984, 25.7.1984 and 15.1.1985 and are being processed for appropriate action in the light of the decisions taken at these meetings.

Modi Textile Mills, Modinagar

*408. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the textile unit of Modi Mills at Modinagar has been lying closed for more than a year;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to reopen the unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) The following three subsidiary companies of M/s. Modi Spinning and Weaving Mills, Modinagar, are closed from the dates men-

:tioned against each of them:

Modi Textile Ltd.	9-7-1884
Vishal Syntex Ltd.	3-10-1984
Modern Spinners	5-8-1983

(b) Closure of these units has been attributed to prolonged labour unrest and necessary conditions in the textile industry.

(c) A rehabilitation package for the revival of these units has been worked out.

Import of colour TV sets VCRs by Indian Tourists from Hongkong and Singapore

*410. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some organised syndicates send Indian 'tourists' regularly to Hongkong and Singapore for just two or three days to bring back colour TV sets and VCRs to be sold by the syndicates at a premium;

(b) if so, what was the number of colour TV sets and VCRs being brought into the country on an average per day during the last one year; and

(c) what corrective measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY): (a) The free allowances and the concessional rates of duty provided under the Baggage Rules are available only in respect of bonafide personal baggage. In case any goods are considered to be not bonafide baggage, they are liable to confiscation and levy of fine and penalties.

Specific intelligence received regarding abuse of baggage concessions or smuggling by organised syndicates are duly acted upon by the Customs authorities and appropriate action taken, including prosecution whenever justified. Some general complaints have also been received that passengers visiting Singapore, Hongkong, etc. do so with the sole purpose of bringing consumer goods, electronic items, etc. for sale in India. The high rates of duty on baggage items coupled with the comparatively higher airfares would make such import for the purpose of sale generally un-remunerative.

VCRs and Television sets cleared as baggage are not allowed to be sold, displayed, advertised or offered for sale or displayed in a shop until market price of VCRs has depreciated to less than 50 per cent of their market price, when new and Television sets have been used for a period of not less than 5 years from the date of clearance. In case of violation of these requirements, these goods are liable to confiscation.

(b) The Department does not maintain statistics of item-wise imports in baggage at airports.

(c) Customs authorities at the air-ports, sea ports and Land Customs Stations and in cities remain vigilant in the matter and carry out frequent raids at the shops and in the market in such cases and take appropriate action.

Restructuring of Tariff rates of foreign Newsprint

*411. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Forty-Sixth Annual General Meeting of the Indian and Eastern Newspapers Society pleaded for restructuring of tariff rates of foreign newsprint; and

(b) if so, what is Government reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY): (a) The speech of the President of the Indian & Eastern Newspapers Society delivered at its 46th Annual General Meeting refers to the December, 1984 judgement of the Supreme Court in regard to the levy of customs duty on newsprint and makes a plea for the removal of the levy.

(b) A detailed study in accordance with the judgement of the Supreme Court